

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091



26th November 2017

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
UNIVERSAL KING

25th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

25th Sunday after Pentecost	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
Monday Feria	NO MASS	
Tuesday Feria	NO MASS	
Wednesday Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday ST ANDREW, Apostle	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
1st Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting for families preparing for **FIRST RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION** held earlier this month. We will enrol the children at Sunday Mass early in 2018. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Today at the 10am Mass we will welcome and baptise **Elizabeth Grace Hutchinson**. We continue to support her parents, **Maura and Peter** and her elder sister, **Katherine**, and her **godparents** through our prayers and the good example of practising our faith.



Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £142.83

SICK & RETIRED CLERGY FUND – £160.84

Thank you for your generosity

NOVEMBER 2017 edition of The Vine
The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is available. **It's free of charge!**

Are you new to the parish?

If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.
All are welcome!

Infant Baptism and Marriage. By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

MISSIO 2018 CALENDARS
Are available in the porch for anyone who would like a copy. Please help yourself.

On **Sunday 10th December 2017** we will hold a **special collection** for the work of **Providence Row**. Founded by Fr Daniel Gilbert, the parish priest of St Mary Moorfields, and the sisters of Mercy, Providence Row has been providing assistance to people who are homeless since 1860. Just £5 will provide a warm welcome of a hot shower, breakfast, a cup of tea and that all important first conversation. You can find out more at www.providencerw.org.uk/advent. Your prayers and generous donations are much appreciated.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – AMERSHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

Planning is going ahead for your local Women's Day of Prayer to be held on 2nd March 2018. If anyone would like to join me in presenting Our Lady's Church please ring Elizabeth Beckwith on 01494 433363. We are particularly looking for younger women.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

On this feast of Christ the King, the Church prays, "As king [Christ] claims dominion over all creation, that he may present to you, his heavenly Father, an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace." (*Sacramentary*, Preface 51).

The anchor was one of the most popular early Christian symbols connected to Christ and use of it refers to Hebrews 6:18-19. It is seen on early Christian graves and seals and was recommended by Clement of Alexandria (c. 200) as an image suitable for use in seal rings. The crossbar of the anchor also was understood as a symbol of Christ's cross (*The Oxford Companion to Christian Art and Architecture*, Oxford University Press, 16). Sometimes, artisans depicted dolphins twined around the anchor (perhaps a sign of humanity's being saved from drowning in the seas of sin by Christ). Some modern Catholic medals shaped as anchors are also inscribed with the names the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) – those virtues from God that form our lives as believers and thus "anchor" us. St. John of the Cross (d. 1569), mystic, preacher, and reformer, wrote, "At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love" (*Diochos de luz y amor* 64).

ADVENT begins next Sunday. To help nourish us journey this four-week journey, both *Walk with Me* and *My Day by Day Advent 2017* prayer booklets are available at a cost of £1.00.

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their which nans new Catholic schools.

OUR LADY'S PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year our dinner is back at the **Boot & Slipper** in **Amersham** on **Saturday 9th December** at **6.30pm**. The price is £26 per head for 3 courses or £23 for 2 courses and includes service charge as well as prizes for the traditional festive Christmas quiz. Do join us! Booking form and menu selection at front of church with box for £5 deposit required per person. **Today is your last chance to sign up for this event!**

Lectionary for Mass

This solemnity was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, a few years after the end of World War I as some national leaders in Europe were beginning to exert a new influence over their citizens. The pope did not see this as a good development. Mussolini was becoming an arrogant dictator and Hitler's Nazi party was gaining strength in Germany.

The choice of Pius XI was to establish the Solemnity of Christ the King as a symbolic statement that Catholic Christian Europe must first turn its allegiance to the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. His Kingdom was not supported by armies and power, and was not of the world with its desire for oppression and elimination of others. Yet this Kingdom was in the world to the extent that those who call themselves Christian gave witness to the message of the Gospel by their works and actions.

This solemnity, which comes at the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of another, provides an appropriate transition.

Today's readings are replete with images of God and Christ as shepherd and king of all creation. The reading from the prophet Ezekiel begins at verse 11, after a fiery condemnation of the religious leaders earlier in the chapter. God announces that he will shepherd the people of Israel. He will rescue the lost and heal the broken, but he will destroy those he judges to be bad, because he is the defender of justice and protector of the disadvantaged.

In the second reading, Paul is teaching about the resurrection of the body. He likens the resurrected Christ to the first-fruits, which the Temple priest offered as a dedication of the entire harvest to God. Thus, as Christ was raised from the dead, we too will be raised. When the end comes, Paul says, and Christ has destroyed all of the forces of evil – even death itself – he will hand over the Kingdom to God, who is Lord of all.

In the gospel, Matthew portrays the returning Christ as a shepherd-king who will separate the good sheep from the bad ones. The imagery is most likely borrowed from Ezekiel 34, but clearly this is a scene of end-time judgment. And what is the measure by which we will be judged? What we did or did not do for the least of God's little ones, Jesus says, we did or did not do for him. Truly, love of God is love of neighbour.

Liturgy and Life

(1) Do you seek out the lord when you feel lost? (2) Are you able to see Christ in the stranger? (3) How does your parish help the Church address root causes of poverty?

Sheltered Housing – St Scholastica's Retreat – VACANT Flats Available

The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £429pcm – more information on the poster and from The Warden: Deacon Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk www.stscholasticas.co.uk